



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	COVINGTON, KY	Accident Number:	ATL89FA098
Date & Time:	03/09/1989, 0617 EST	Registration:	N3281T
Aircraft:	BEECH BE-18	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

N3281T WAS ATTEMPTING AN INSTRUMENT DEPARTURE WHEN IT CRASHED LEFT OF THE EXTENDED CENTER LINE OF RUNWAY 18. THE FLIGHT WAS OBSERVED CLIMBING THROUGH 200 FEET PRIOR TO DESCENDING TO THE GROUND. PRIOR TO TAXIING TO TAKEOFF THE PILOT FAILED TO DEICE THE AIRFRAME. AIRPLANES ON THE PARKING RAMP AROUND N3281T DEICED PRIOR TO TAKEOFF. WEATHER REPORTS INDICATED THAT TEMP/DEW POINT WERE 26 AND 23 DEGREES RESPECTIVELY. THE SURFACE OBSERVATION ALSO REPORTED FOG AS A RESTRICTION TO VISIBILITY. ACCORDING TO THE AIRPLANE'S HANDBOOK THAT TESTS PROVE THAT A COAT OF FROST ON A WING CAN DESTROY ITS LIFT.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: PILOT ATTEMPTED A TAKEOFF WITH COATING OF FROST ON THE AIRFRAME WHICH RESULTED IN A LOSS OF LIFT DURING CLIMBOUT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) FLIGHT CONTROL SURFACES/ATTACHMENTS - ICE
3. (C) ICE/FROST REMOVAL FROM AIRCRAFT - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	41, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/04/1988
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	10560 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model), 9560 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N3281T
Model/Series:	BE-18 BE-18	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	BA-611
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/15/1989, AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	7 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	13262 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-20
Registered Owner:	AJAX AIRCRAFT LEASING	Rated Power:	550 hp
Operator:	AJAX LEASING INC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	ACTION AERO CHARTER INC	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CVG, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0617 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	3 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-3° C / -5° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	COVINGTON, KY (CVG)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	DETROIT METRO, MI (DTW)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0618 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	CINCINNATI (CVG)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	891 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	9501 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Report Date:	07/11/1990
Additional Participating Persons:	ED FRASER; WASHINGTON, DC RICHARD CHESSON; LOUISVILLE, KY STEPHEN W SMITH; LOUISVILLE, KY DEAN M THOMPSON; WICHITA, KS		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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